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Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Nigeria

Addendum

Replies of Nigeria*

[Date received: 27 June 2017]

Note: The present document is being circulated in English, French and Spanish only.

* *The present document is being issued without formal editing.*

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Constitutional and legislative framework and harmonization of laws

1. Issue

Response

1. During the constitutional review process, the gender ministry submitted a memo to the Review Committee on the need to amend Section 26(2)(a) of the 1999 Constitution such as to give foreign men married to Nigerians the opportunity to acquire citizenship. Further is the need to state in express terms that a woman married to any man from a state of the federation other than her own should have the rights to choose which of the states to claim as her own.

2. Further suggested an amendment to Section 147(3) of the constitution, which provides for federal character in the president's selection of ministers to include a 35 per cent affirmative action for women.

3. As at Thursday 29 September 2016, the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2016, scaled through the Senate for second reading. It was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Legal Matters and Human Rights for further scrutiny and report on findings. As at 14 March 2017, it scaled through the Senate second reading.

2. Issue

Response

4. First update on the concerns expressed by the Committee on permissibility of spousal battery under Section 55 Penal Code and on classification of sexual assault against female victims as a mere misdemeanour under Section 360 Criminal Code, is that, the VAPP Act 2015 prohibits all forms of violence persons, including women and children, in both private and public life, and provides for maximum protection, effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders. The Act prohibits and punishes for crimes of rape (Section 1), FGM/FC (Sec. 6), emotional, verbal and psychological abuse (Sec. 14), harmful widowhood practices (Sec. 15), spousal battery (Sec. 19), harmful traditional practices (Sec. 20). Sec. 38 of the Act provides for the rights of victims of such violence etc.

5. The VAPP Act 2015 provides under its Part V, Section 45 for a consequential amendment, gender savings and repeal as follows:

(a) Any offence committed or proceedings instituted before the commencement of this Act under the provisions of the (a) criminal code LFN 2004; (b) penal code, LFN 2004; (c) criminal procedure code, LFN 2004; (d) any other law or regulation relating to any Act of violence defined by this Act shall as the case may require be enforced or continue to be enforced by the provision of this Act;

(b) Any provision of the Act shall supersede any other provision or similar offences in the criminal code, penal code and the criminal procedure code.

6. Even though the Act applies at the Federal level/FCT Abuja only, yet it is a major step/signal to the States in the right direction.

(i) Following the NLRC's submission, the Attorney General of the federation has in 2017 approved the review of the entire body of laws of Nigeria 2004-2007 by a technical expert committee.

Access to justice

3. Issues

Responses

7. Women's access to justice is, first, a fundamental right guaranteed under Section 46(1) of the 1999 Constitution on the right of access to court for justice including legal redress and remedies. Any aggrieved persons seeking for justice can access, among others, the superior courts established at both federal and state levels with their jurisdiction and powers to do justice while granting remedies under Sections 230-288 of the Constitution. Second, women's access to justice is also a state obligation to ensure under Section 17(2)(a) that every citizen has equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law; and para (e) the independence, impartiality and integrity of courts of law, and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained.

8. Further, the State shall make provisions under Section 46(4)(b) for the rendering of financial assistance to any indigent citizen where his/her fundamental right has been infringed or with a view to enabling him/her to engage the services of a legal practitioner to prosecute his/her claim.

9. Under Section 18(3) of the Evidence Act, 2011, in any judicial proceeding where any custom (defined as a rule that, in particular district, has, from long usage, obtained the force of law) is relied upon, it shall not be enforced as law if it is contrary to public policy, or natural justice, equity and good conscience.

10. The above provision applies to all courts (defined to include all judges, magistrates and all persons legally authorized to take evidence) in the federation. Additionally, Section 34(1) of the High Court Laws of Northern States is to the effect that the High Court shall observe and enforce the observance of every native law and custom which is repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience, nor incompatible with any written law for the time being in force.

11. The 1999 Constitution recognizes Islamic and Customary laws as distinct and separate laws for their administration in Nigeria under Sections 250-264 and 279 Constriction. This was re-echoed by the Supreme Court in the case of *Alkamawa V Alhaji Hassan Bello* (1998) 6 SCNJ p.127 per Wali.

12. On scope, statutory laws are civil and criminal legislations (written laws) enacted by the federal and state legislatures for the peace, order and good government under Section 4 of the Constitution. Similarly, the scope of Islamic law covers both civil and criminal legislative enactments made under Section 4 and applicable under Sections 250-264 and 279 Constitution. However, the scope of customary law remains largely civil as defined by the Evidence Act earlier.

13. Yes, decisions rendered by Sharia courts are amenable to appeal to the constitutionally established Sharia Courts of Appeal, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Nigeria by virtue of Sections 230 to 288 Constitution. Section 288 provides for the appointment of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court persons learned in Islamic personal law and customary law.

14. First, legal measure was taken by the federal government to re-enact the Legal Aid Act in 2011, in order to expand the scope of legal aid in accordance with international standards, provide for the establishment of legal aid and access to justice fund into which financial assistance would be made available to indigent citizens including women/rural women to prosecute their claims in accordance with the Constitution. Such claims include cases of GBV and other forms of discrimination.

15. Second, other measures include:

(a) The Legal Aid/Access to Justice for the Poor Project which utilized funds from the Japan Social Development Fund between 2011-2015 to improve access to justice by the poor, including women/rural women, through the provision of legal aid in civil cases and establishment of legal and clinics in collaboration with city and rural local governments, including providing accessible legal service such as legal counselling to the rural poor and women;

(b) The British Council/DFID Justice for All Project in the pilot states selected has recorded some success stories in Lagos, Enugu, Kano and Jigawa between 2012/13-2015 in terms of its intervention in strengthening the capacity of justice sector to deliver legal assistance and mediation services to citizens, especially those from the poor and vulnerable groups, including women. The 2015 reports reveals that there is a 6 per cent increase in the number of women who are satisfied with the services of local legal assistance services to access justice. In 2014, 81 per cent of women were satisfied with the services of the Citizens Mediation Centres/Citizens Rights Mediation Centres (CMC/CRMCs) compared to 87 per cent of women in 2015. Percentage of women complainants at various centres includes 38 per cent in CRMC Enugu, 33 per cent in Lagos, CMC, and 49 per cent in Kano CMC.

16. Within this period, both the FMWA and SD and the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja in collaboration with partner CSOs and development partners, have been promoting women's legal rights under CEDAW and the Constitution and advocacy programmes for the benefit of women in poor and vulnerable communities via mass media such as radio, tv and pamphlet campaigns in both local and English languages.

17. Although there is currently no data available on the extent to which women access legal aid nationwide, but the scope of legal and financial aid available to women have been expanded since 2011 to include crime against the human body and sexual offences like rape and assault, civil claims relating to breach of fundamental right and civil claims arising from criminal activities against persons who are qualified for Legal Aids under the Legal Aid Act, 2011. Criminal activities against women include all form of violence prohibited under the Violence against Person (Prohibition) Act, 2015.

Women and peace and security

4. Issues

Response

NAP implementation and challenges

18. The Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development with its mandate to drive the process of promotion and development of women issues in Nigeria is charged to lead the process in development of the roadmap for the implementation of United Nations resolution 1325 in the country. Nigeria as a United Nations Member State, having adopted and ratified the resolution was expected to draw an action plan on United Nations resolution 1325. Nigeria's National Action Plan document was officially launched on 27 August 2013.

19. NAP reflects government's commitment as well as accountability in ensuring the security of women and girls during armed conflicts and enhancing their active and direct participation in conflict prevention and peace building, as well as post conflict efforts.

20. It is also a practical and operational tool for those affected by armed conflicts — women, children and communities to be informed about the government's response to their plight including assistance programme options available to them. The milestones in the implementation of NAP included:

(a) Establishment of state action plans on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in five states: Delta, Rivers, Kano, Borno and Plateau states (in 2015);

(b) Enactment of the Violence against persons (prohibition) Act;

(c) The acceptance of females in the Nigerian Defence Academy ensuring that they can attain the highest possible rank in the Military;

(d) Initiation of the Programme on Promoting women's engagement in Peace and Security in Northern Nigeria (supported by the European Union);

(e) Inauguration of Women peace Ambassadors;

(f) All female peace keeping contingent To Congo democratic Republic assembled by Nigeria Police;

(g) The establishment of the Nigeria Army peace Keeping Centre, Jaji, Kaduna State.

21. The National Peace Policy was adopted on 28/02/2012 and provides for strategy and gender mainstreaming in peace building. The Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution is responsible for operationalising the policy nationwide.

22. The draft National Policy on internally displaced persons was revised in 2012 and 2016 to reflect Nigeria's treaty obligations and current developments and now awaits adoption by the Federal Executive Council this year. It provides for the protection of the rights of displaced women and children and assistance as well as durable solutions to their plight consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on internally displaced persons and the All Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of internally displaced persons in Africa.

23. The *Boko Haram* insurgency has negatively impacted on women and girls by forcefully displacing them; disruption of means of livelihoods and educational pursuit and separation of families especially unaccompanied children; exposing them to sexual violence, exploitation and abuse; to widespread malnutrition and food insecurity.

24. Measures taken so far include the following:

(a) July 2015-May 2017: After months of delicate and complex negotiations with the Boko Haram insurgents over the 2014 Abducted Chibok schoolgirls, the Federal government secured the release of 103 of them, rehabilitated and reunited then with their families. The Government promised to take care of their education and provide them jobs;

(b) In 2016, government is continually rebuilding thousands of destroyed homes and resettling and rehabilitating about two (2) million internally displaced persons. Pursuing aggressive policy of job creation through skills acquisition and establishment of agriculture-based factories;

(c) Also pursuing aggressive youth de-radicalization programme in order to shield youths against extremism and intolerance;

(d) FADAMA III Additional financing Programme, supported by the World Bank, has begun distribution of 4 she-goats and one he-goat or 3 sheep and one ram to 5,320 households affected by Boko Haram insurgency in 133 communities of 14 local governments, Yobe State;

(e) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reported (on 15 February 2017) to have trained and empowered 8,800 returnee internally displaced persons (women and youths) for dry season irrigation farming in three local government areas of Borno State;

(f) UNDP estimated that $1bn (one billion dollars) is needed to rehabilitate about 6.9 million people affected by the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East;

(g) The Federal government signed a tripartite agreement with the UNHCR and the Republic of Cameroon for the protection of over 65,000 Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon;

(h) The Inter-Ministerial Task Force (IMTF) coordinates humanitarian response to the plight of internally displaced persons and oversees the work of Federal agencies and the Presidential Committee on North-East Initiative (PCNI) which focuses on medium- to long-term recovery and rehabilitation, provision of immediate humanitarian relief, decongestion of formal internally displaced persons camps, and psychological support for victims of sexual abuse and gender-based violence as well as legal assistance to access Justice for redress through the National Human Rights Commission and the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria;

(i) The government, through its Committee on Victims Support Fund, continue to respond to the immediate needs of internally displaced women including their security.

National machinery for the advancement of women

5. Issues

Responses

25. Annex 1 provides the detail information currently available.

26. The National Bureau Statistic (NBS) in its coordination strides has put in place a mechanism for mainstreaming gender in MDAs through stakeholder's workshop. This is to institutionalize gender statistics in all sectors and to have more efficient coverage of gender issues. The sectors/issues that are involved are Education; Work; Poverty; Environment; Power and Decision Making; Population; Household and Families; Health; Migration, Displaced Persons and Refugees; Violence against Women and Food Security.

27. Although Gender budgeting is an evolving and cross-cutting issue in Nigeria, little progress being made in this regard is reflected in Annex 1 attached.

28. Information regarding the existing system of data collection is through Administrative source i.e. Federal and State MDAs and from published survey reports. In analysing gender differences, Excel Spreadsheet Programme is used to derive basic inferential statistics and graphics. NBS publish Statistical Report on Women and Men in Nigeria Yearly. The following sectors/issues are covered in the publication: Education, Work, Power and Decision Making, Population, Health and Violence against Women.

Temporary special measures

6. Issues

Response

29. Implementing this recommendation, the NGP-Strategic Implementation Framework and plan (2008) introduces temporary special measures under its Objective 5, Target(ii), Outcome2, output 7, indicators 1-4 and Strategic interventions 1-5; and outcome 3, Outputs 5-10, indicators 1-21 and Strategic interventions 1-40.

30. This has translated into the following initiatives: A Women Trust Fund was created in 2010 to support female political aspirants during the 2011 elections. About 235 women have benefited from the funds to support their political career and 12 of them won elections and are currently serving; Women's rights advocates were also well represented in the country's national conference where issues of gender equality were raised and debated with positive and progressive resolutions reached on them.

31. The Federal Government of Nigeria implemented a Social Safety Net Project, Community Services, Women and Youths Employment (CSWYE), as an interventionist measure to create stop-gap jobs for unemployed persons, train them on fundamentals of entrepreneurial development, and provide them with basic tools to engage in viable ICT services within their communities be young the period of their participation in the project. The overall aim of the project was to reduce unemployment, stimulate growth of micro, small- and medium-scale enterprises as sustainable means of livelihood and reduce vulnerability of beneficiaries to poverty.

32. The first phase of the project ran between 2012 and 2015, with coverage across all the 774 Local Government areas in the 36 states and FCT. The target beneficiaries were young unemployed persons, but with inbuilt implementation strategy of reserving at least 30 per cent participation spaces for women, especially widows in the rural communities.

33. Results recorded by the project indicate that over 360,000 jobs were created and 36 per cent of the beneficiaries were women (mainly widows in rural communities). A random selection of the beneficiaries, who were additionally trained in various skills (Hats and beads making, interlock moulding, catering services, ICT mobile banking, etc.) and given take-off grants of N150,000 each, showed 99 per cent success, measured as increased ability to provide for basic needs of feeding, clothing, payment of children's school fees, etc. Post training assessment indicated 66 per cent practical understanding of the skills and 80 per cent preparedness to start business in the areas of training. Women formed 30 per cent of the trainees and they performed better than men on ease of business take-off. Overall, each of the beneficiaries received an economic boost of N117,458.00; while those who took part in the entrepreneurial development programme got a total of N267,458.00 each, which reduced their vulnerability and poverty levels.

34. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development under the Growing Girls and Women in Nigeria project is working with rural women cooperatives to produce rice and other products. It also trained women on poultry, aquaculture, cassava processing and packaging. Starter packs was also provided the women to ensure they are carried along in key decision making including registering them on E-wallet agro-data base for agro-allied and health information.

35. Both the revised National Policy on internally displaced persons, 2017 awaiting the adoption of the Federal Executive Council, and the national Policy on

Disability as well as the 2016 Bill on Prohibition of Discrimination against persons with Disabilities, seek to address the specific needs of displaced women and women with disability nationwide through protection, relief assistance, capacity-building and durable solutions for reintegration.

36. The legal basis for such temporary special measures include the following:

(a) Section 16(1)(b) Constriction provides that the State shall control the economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity;

(b) Section 17(2) Constitution provides that every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law; Section 17(3) provide that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring among others, that: all citizens, without discrimination on any group whatsoever, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunity to secure suitable employment; the health, safety and welfare of all persons in employment are safeguarded and not endangered or abused; there is equal pay for equal work without discrimination on account of sex, or on any other ground whatsoever;

(c) Section 18(1) Constituent is to the effect that Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

7. Issues

Responses

37. The impact assessment is yet to be conducted nationwide.

38. The Hon. Minister for Women Affairs (HM) paid advocacy visits to MDAs at national level (Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Attorney-General, IGP, INEC Chairman among others) to raise awareness on the provisions of CEDAW and to advocate commitment to the promotion of gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination.

39. Similar visits were also paid to States (Governors, State Assemblies, Traditional leaders, CSOs) by the HM in company of other Ministry officials, NASS member from such state, CSOs and other notable individuals during the reporting period.

40. The Nigerian Police Force has developed and adopted a National Human Rights Training Curriculum. The development of the gender component of the manual was done with the support of UNWOMEN. The manual will be used in all Police training colleges across the country.

41. Many States of the federation have passed laws and policies and many bills are before National and State Assemblies on abolition of harmful traditional/cultural practices.

42. The VAPP Act 2015 prohibits all forms of violence persons, including women and children, in both private and public life, and provides for maximum protection, effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders. The Act prohibits and punishes for crimes of rape (Section 1), FGM/FC (Sec. 6), emotional, verbal and psychological abuse (Sec. 14), harmful widowhood practices (Sec. 15), spousal battery (Sec. 19), harmful traditional practices (Sec. 20). Sec. 38 of the Act provides for the rights of victims of such violence etc.

43. The National Gender Policy and its Strategic Implementation Framework are currently being reviewed in order to strengthen efforts at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. The FMWASD and its partners are engaging religious and traditional institutions and communities towards the elimination of stereotypes and practices that are discriminatory to women. Male champions have emerged from these awareness programs and are participating in the campaign. The FMWA and SD and the NCWD have conducted baseline studies and surveys (2008-2017) on sociocultural determinants of maternal mortality and maternal Health Indicators in Nigeria.

44. The National Gender Policy Strategic Implementation Framework contains a template to that effect. The result being the list of Federal and State Laws and Policies earlier referred to, that seek to address such stereotypes and practices impacting on women and the girl-child.

45. The Federal Government of Nigeria has revised its Broadcasting Code in 2010 (5th Edition) to provide for minimum standard for the media and film industry such that broadcasting shall influence society positively, setting the agenda for the social, cultural, economic, political and technological development of a nation, for the public good. Accordingly, the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture is partnering with the film industry (Hollywood and Kannywood) and the media to portray women and children in a dignified sense and promotional of their basic rights against harmful sociocultural practices, stereotypes and other discriminatory practices and norms in society.

8. Issues

Responses

46. Bayelsa State, The female Genital (Prohibition) Law, 2000; Cross River State Law to Prohibit Girl-Child Marriages and Female Genital Circumcision or Genital Mutilation in, 2009; Edo State Law Female Circumcision and Genital Mutilation (prohibition) Law No. 4 of 1999; Rivers State Abolition of Female Circumcision Law, No. 2 of 2001.

47. VAPP Act 2015 wherein Section 6 prohibits FC/FGM and punishes performers or attempt to perform FGM/FC, inciters, aiders, abettors or counsellors to perform with punishment upon conviction to a range of a maximum of 4 years imprisonment or a fine of a maximum of N200,000 or both (for performers) and a maximum of 2 years imprisonment or a fine of not more than N100,000 or both for other violators respectively.

48. No data available on this issue. Efforts will be made to provide by the next reporting cycle.

Gender-based violence against women

9. Issues

Responses

49. No available data yet due to the recent nature of the VAPP Act whose Enforcement Procedure framework is about to be drafted at the FCT level (as was the case with the Child Rights Act, 2003 Framework).

(a) Since the enactment of VAPP Act 2015, NAPTIP has not investigated, prosecuted or convicted any offender in relation to gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence. However, the Agency has brokered compensation to the tune of 5 Million Naira for victims of domestic violence;

(b) VAPP Act 2015 makes provision for protection orders, however, NAPTIP, issues administrative protection orders (against suspects) for women and girls against their violators where necessary:

(i) Execution of sensitization programmes in market places and communities to get women acquainted with the existing provisions under the Act and get them introduced to NAPTIP as an Agency that can facilitate redemption of their violated rights;

(ii) Sensitization programmes on the print and electronic media to create awareness among the populace and to get them enlightened on the capacity of NAPTIP to investigate, arrest, prosecute and convict offenders under the Violence against Persons [Prohibition] Act (VAPP);

(iii) Creation of awareness in schools on the existence of VAPP Act and the capacity of NAPTIP to act accordingly to redress violations;

(iv) Establishment of anti-trafficking Clubs in Schools to monitor and report any observed violence against persons to NAPTIP particularly students and neighbours around.

50. The VAPP Act 2015 is only applicable in the FCT, however, some States like Lagos already have a Law similar to VAPP Act 2015.Adoption strategies by states are being developed similar to that of the Child Rights Act, 2003, for effective implementation nationwide.

51. Yes, the Act is supported through the budgetary allocation to the designated regulatory body, NAPTIP (Anti-human trafficking agency) by virtue of Section 44 of the Act.

10. Issues

Responses

52. No such measures taken so far. However, the capacity of both public prosecutors in the ministries of Justice and NAPTIP as well as courts of Law is being enhanced through the following:-

(a) Training workshop series and the adoption of the new National Policy on Prosecutions and Guidelines for Prosecutors (2014);

(b) The coming into force of the Comprehensive Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015, which provides for the Administration of Criminal Justice System which promotes efficient management of Criminal Justice Institutions;

(c) Speedy dispensation of Justice, protection of the society from crimes and of the rights and interests of the suspect, the defendant and victims in Nigeria;

(d) The adoption of the new national Judicial Policy, 2016; and the daft National Justice Sector Policy, 2017.

53. This recommendation is being implemented through the following:-

(a) NAPTIP's 8 shelters(transit and closed) located in Abuja, Lagos, Benin, Uyo, Enugu, Kano, Sokoto and Maiduguri with a total of 293 capacity rate (at average of 32.3) is due to its peculiarity Length of stay is limited to 6 weeks. Any person needing a longer stay is referred to the shelters owned by collaborating NGOs;

(b) Within the confines of the mandate of the Agency, the department of Counselling and Rehabilitation offers the following services, among others, to victims of human trafficking; Provision of counselling services and psychosocial therapy; provision of career and family counselling services; provision of medical

care and feeding throughout their stay in NAPTIP; Referring victims to accredited NGOs for long time accommodation and vocational training service.

54. Concrete measures are being developed by NAPTIP to address these twin problems.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

11. Issues

Responses

55. Assented to and came into force on 26 March 2015. The re-enacted Act seeks to provide an effective and comprehensive legal and institutional framework for the prohibition, prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment of human trafficking and related offences in Nigeria; Protect victims of human trafficking; and promote and facilitate national and international cooperation. NAPTIP Report reveals the following trends:

Table 1
Convictions from inception to December 2016

S/N		*Inception to June 2016*
1.	Total number of cases received	4 240
2.	Total number of cases investigated	3 157
3.	Total number victims rescued	9 895
4.	Total number of convictions	245
5.	Total number of convicted persons	291
6.	Total no. of Convictions for Jan-Dec 2016	26
7.	Total No. of convicts for Jan-Dec 2016	32

Table 2
Convictions from January to April 2017

S/N		*January to April 2017*
1.	Total No. of convicts for Jan-Dec 2016	32
2.	Total No. of convicts for Sept-Dec 2016	18
3.	Total No. of convicts for Jan-Apr 2017	6

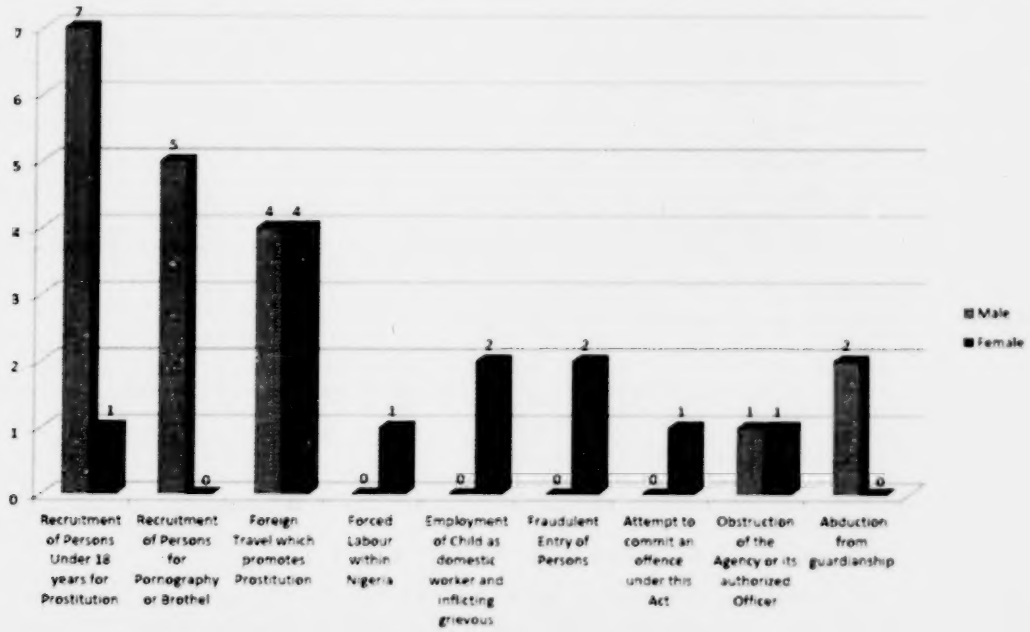
Prosecution and convictions: 2016 NAPTIP Report

56. In the year under review, the Agency got a total of 25 convictions, which saw 31 persons convicted. Out of the 31 convicted persons, 14 were male and 17 female. This brings it to the total number of 261 convictions and 311 convicted persons gotten by the Agency since inception.

Convicted traffickers	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage (%)*
Recruitment of persons under 18 year for prostitution	7	1	8	25.8
Recruitment of persons under for pornography and brothel	5	–	5	16.1
Foreign travel which promotes prostitution	4	4	8	25.8
Forced labour within Nigeria	–	1	1	3.2

Convicted traffickers	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Percentage (%)*
Employment of child as domestic worker and inflicting grievous harm	–	2	2	6.5
Fraudulent entry of persons	–	2	2	6.5
Attempt to commit an offence under this Act	–	1	1	3.2
Obstruction of the Agency or its authorized Officer	1	1	2	6.5
Abduction from guardianship	2	–	2	6.5
Total	**19**	**12**	**31**	**100.0**

57. No conviction was secured in the following cases: Importation of persons for Prostitution, Exportation of persons for Prostitution, Recruitment of Persons for use in Armed Conflicts, Recruitment of Persons for Organ Harvesting, Buying or selling of Human Beings for any purpose, Forced Labour outside Nigeria, Trafficking in Slaves, Slave dealing, Conspiracy to commit trafficking offence, Escape or aiding and abetting Escape, Offences by a Body Corporate, Impersonation or Assumption of Character of an Officer of the Agency, Tampering with evidence and witness and Violation against the provisions of obligations of airlines, commercial carriers, tour operators and travel agents.



58. Prostitution is not a federal offence though since States like Edo State have criminalized it. However, the Law that established NAPTIP criminalizes the exploitation of the prostitution of others. NAPTIP does not have data on the prevalence of prostitution in Nigeria; however find below data for cases reported to the Agency, and which it investigated for the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

	Reported	*Investigated*	*Reported*	*Investigated*	*Reported*	*Investigated*
	2016		*2015*		*2014*	
Exportation of persons for Prostitution/ Foreign Travel which promotes Prostitution	255	146	145	85	46	46

59. The concrete measures taken so far are:

(a) Formation of Nigeria/Cameron Trans Border Committee to gather intelligence on combating crimes particularly Human Trafficking along the borderlines of the two countries;

(b) Establishment of Joint Border Task Force (JBTF). This led to rescue, profiling and return of over one hundred victims trafficked from Mali, Ivory Coast and Ghana to Nigeria. (2014-2017);

(c) Establishment of the Committee from the Gulf of Guinea to prevent Human Trafficking along the maritime environment. This led to the rescue of victims trafficked to Gabon;

(d) Organized International Conference on HT in Abuja, this involved all stakeholders, partners and Embassies in order to sensitize, appraise and proffer solution and way forward on trafficking issues;

(e) Collaborative efforts with embassies on intelligence gathering and sharing of information on intelligence gathering, rescue and return of victims;

(f) Study tour by Cameroon, the Gambia and Ghana to Nigeria to understudy its operational techniques which has led to exchange of best practices and capacity-building of the visiting countries;

(g) Capacity-building for NAPTIP Officers on investigation of TIP and Child exploitation cases in Accra Ghana (2015 and 2016).

60. There are administrative and legal measures to deal with law enforcement officers who abuse women in prostitution through extortion and violence within every law enforcement Agency. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has Eight (8) shelters across the country mainly for rescued victims of trafficking and it partners with other privately owned shelters in order to ensure witness protection counselling and rehabilitation.

61. Following the last report, more bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed. Nigeria is presently collaborating with Italy, France, Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, United States of America, Finland, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Benin Republic and Organizations such as UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, ILO, USAID, UNICRI, WOTCLEF etc. on issues of Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

Participation in political and public life

12. Issues

Responses

62. Efforts were made by Nigeria to implement this recommendation by operationalizing National Gender Policy (NGP) Objective 5, Target (ii) through the adoption of the 2008 NGP strategic implementation framework and plan, particularly under its Outcome 2, Output 7, Indicators (ii-iii) and Time lined June 2009 to 2015.

63. Objective 5, target ii: "Adopt special measures, quotas and mechanisms for achieving minimum critical threshold of women in political offices, party organs and public life by pursuing 35 per cent affirmative action in favour of women to bridge gender gaps in political representation both elective and appointive at all levels by 2015".

64. To actualize the above target by 2015, the Federal Gender Ministry in collaboration with its State counterparts and Gender coalition CSOs, undertook a strategic advocacy and capacity strengthening initiatives to integrate affirmative action on gender equality in representation within the Federal character principle of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and undertook annual monitoring of women's representation at all levels of governance and political and public life.

65. The above efforts resulted in the following success stories: In terms of quantity, the number of female political appointees rose from 10 per cent (2007-2011) to 33 per cent in 2013, with the appointment of 13 female ministers out of 42, and 4 special Advisers out of 18. Between 2015-2017, out of 36 ministers, 6 are female (17 per cent) and 13 out of 91 heads of agencies were appointed (14.3 per cent); Within this period, 4 women were appointed as Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria (25 per cent); 15 female Judges out of 70 Justices of the Court of the Appeal (21.4 per cent) and about 30 per cent of the total State High Court Judges were female appointees.

66. Many States of the federation have passed laws and policies and many bills are before National and State Assemblies on abolition of harmful traditional/cultural practices.

67. The VAPP Act 2015 prohibits all forms of violence persons, including women and children, in both private and public life, and provides for maximum protection, effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders. The Act prohibits and punishes for crimes of rape (Section 1), FGM/FC (Sec. 6), emotional, verbal and psychological abuse (Sec. 14), harmful widowhood practices (Sec. 15), spousal battery (Sec. 19), harmful traditional practices (Sec. 20).

68. A Women Trust Fund was created in 2010 to support female political aspirants during the 2011 elections. About 235 women have benefited from the funds to support their political career and 12 of them won elections and are currently serving.

69. Objective 5, target ii: "Adopt special measures, quotas and mechanisms for achieving minimum critical threshold of women in political offices, party organs and public life by pursuing 35 per cent affirmative action in favour of women to bridge gender gaps in political representation both elective and appointive at all levels by 2015"

70. Consistent with NGP Strategic Implementation Framework and Plan and its Outcome 3, Outputs 6-7 and Strategic Interventions 24-33. Training opportunities organized by Government and CSOs for women in political and public life have greatly increased over the years.

Education

13. Issues

Responses

71. The net enrolment in basic education (as domesticated in Nigeria to mean six years of primary schooling and three years of junior secondary education) has had a fluctuating history of an upward trend to the mid-point assessment year. This

positive trend was however halted in later years as a result of the disruptions brought about by the Boko Haram insurgency. The insurgency led to the destruction of many schools with the school children constituting a large size of the internally displaced population. Consequently, the net enrolment of 60 per cent in 1995 declined to the end-point net enrolment of 54 per cent in 2013. There is, however, a good policy environment provided by the Federal Ministry of Education and its parastatals, which will aid significant growth in net enrolment once the Boko Haram phenomenon is effectively checked. With respect to primary six completion rate, the trend and end-point status show strong and significant progress. Nigeria remained largely on track towards achieving this indicator. The completion rate, which stood at 73 per cent in 1993, trended upwards in most of the subsequent years culminating in 82 per cent at the end-point year. The policy environment is good and supportive of consolidation of the achievements. There are however variations across states which need to be addressed in efforts to consolidate the achievements. The literacy rate trended marginally upwards in most of the years from 64 per cent in 2000 to 66.7 per cent in 2014. The significant rate of 80.0 per cent achieved in 2008 could not be sustained.

14. Issues

Responses

72. Modalities put in place:

(a) At the moment Eight hundred children each from Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (2400) have been placed in various unity colleges in the country;

(b) Others will be absorbed into Unity Schools by September, 2017;

(c) Some are to be sent to technical schools to learn trade and craft;

(d) They are to be on full government Scholarship;

(e) There is provision for education on the wheels;

(f) There are plans to give capacity-building on Income Generating activities for the adolescent/young mothers.

73. Perimeter Fencing of schools; More Security personnel's employed to guard the schools; Some communities have embarked on community policing to ward off attacks.

Provide specific data on the school dropout rate

74. There is no recent data so far; attendance in Primary and Secondary schools in the northeast is the lowest in the country, according to government data from 2013. More than 52 per cent of males and 61 per cent of females aged six and above in the North-East have not received education. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 10.5 million primary school-age children were out of school as at 2010. The 2013 Demographic and Health Survey places the total number of out of school children at 13.2 million, being available data. According to UNICEF, the stark reality is that 60 per cent of out of school children are from the North.

75. The recent rescued Chibok girls will be admitted into Unity schools by September 2017. Also post literacy will be introduced to the internally displaced persons to children above 15 years that cannot fit into JSS class, but can be taught technical work.

76. The Gender Branch has also trained 625 rural women from ten states on Income Generating Activities (IGA) to assist to support the education of the Girl

child. They were assisted with little seed money to start off a small business. There are plans in the 2017 budget to implement the same in internally displaced persons camps as well as the introduction of Handicraft and vocational skills.

Respond to the report that the State party's military uses Schools for military purposes in the fight against Boko Haram Insurgency

77. The source and authenticity of this report could not be verified because the Nigerian Military under the operational code of conduct is to protect civilian objects and not to use any school for Military purposes. The group "Safe School Declaration" is advocating that government should ban soldiers from using schools for military purposes to avoid such schools being targets of attacks and destruction. Also to work with the appropriate authorities to ensure better security at schools in the North East. Ensure that students deprived of educational facilities — whether in internally displaced person's camps, host communities, or in the slums are well taken care of by providing suitable books and equipment.

78. The Federal Ministry of Education has a National Policy and Implementation Guidelines on HIV/AIDS in education, which is operational in both state and Federal schools. HIV/AIDS is implemented in schools through the use of the Family Life HIV/AID Education curriculum. This curriculum has been infused into six (6) subjects by almost all the states in the country.

79. Schools also implement extra-curricular activities (peer education, Assembly talks and anti-AIDS club).

80. Operationalization of Youth friendly centres in tertiary Institutions as well as infusion of HIV and AIDS in General studies (GNS).

(a) Recognition of HIV and AIDS as human rights issues and is committed to ensuring that the right of PLWHA and PABA are promoted;

(b) Compulsory and consensual testing of persons is promoted;

(c) The right of VCT is forfeited by person(s) who engages in sexual abuse, rape or deliberate transmission of the virus.

Employment

15. Issues

Responses

81. Measures adopted to implement Article II are articulated in chapter a main Report, include the following: The National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Act, 2011, provides for equal remuneration for work of equal value and sets out #18,000 as the monthly minimum wage; The Employees/Workmen's Compensation Act, 2011, makes it compulsory for an employer to pay compensation to her/his employee or dependents, who suffers from death, injury, disease or disability arising from in the course of employment among others; The Factories Act obligated all registered factories to provide for their workers and other professionals exposed to occupational hazards and to make adequate provisions regarding their safety at work; The Social Insurance Trust Fund Act operates the social security system and aims at cushioning the effect of uncertainties brought about by death, disability and old age; The Pension Reform Act, 2014 seeks to ensure that employees covered by the Act receive their retirement benefits as and when due, and assist improvident individuals save for their livelihood during old age.

82. This is consistent with section 17(3) of the 1999 constitution. Further, the Labour Act makes provision for the protection of wages, contracts of employment and the terms and conditions of employment. Recently, both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal held that termination of contract of employment and dismissal from employment as well as collective agreement in labour/employment matters must comply with due process of law and principles of natural Justice.

83. More specifically, the national Employment Policy (2005) and the National Policy Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSMES) seek to promote Women-Owned Enterprises through credit, financing, training and business advisory services. Relevant ILO Conventions ratified by Nigeria have been domesticated into the national legislations and are being implemented, reports of which were submitted to ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendation. Section 55 of the Labour Act, Cap 198, 2004 was not intended to be discriminatory but initially aimed at protecting women from jobs that were considered hazardous (night and underground).

84. To further ensure implementation of this provision, Nigeria ratified: ILO Conventions 100 and 111. This has empowered Nigeria to revise the Labour Act to reflect the non-discriminatory provisions.

85. The VAPP Act 2015 criminalizes sexual harassment in the workplace, with sanctions provided.

86. The Labour Standards Bill prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace and provides sanctions for offenders. The Bill is presently awaiting enactment at the National Assembly.

87. The Federal Ministry of Labour and productivity has the mandate of enforcing the Labour Act, Cap 198, 2004.

88. The Ministry gives effective enforcement (Monitoring and regulation) of the Labour laws in both the public and private sectors of the economy through labour administration activities of its officers/offices all over the federation. The State Labour Offices submit weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the headquarters on all enforcement activities in the States.

89. The Labour Standards Bill prohibits all forms of discrimination in the workplace and is presently awaiting National Assembly enactment.

90. **Measures to close gender wage gaps**: Both the Nigerian Constitution (1999 as amended) and the Labour Act (1971 as amended) were silent on wage disparity between women and men. While the Constitution provides for equality of all before the law, the Labour Act spells out women's maternity protection, and types of jobs they are exempt from (night work and underground work) with appropriate sanctions. Incidences of wage disparities, where they occur, are essentially inventions of the employers as they are not backed by these national laws.

91. The Federal Ministry of Labour has extracted obsolete laws that need update and has presented them to the National Assembly, which creates an opportunity to make them more gender sensitive and remove grey areas. The new Labour Law seeks to eliminate open or disguised discrimination against women workers in recruitment, remuneration, promotion and training. All stakeholders on labour issues would be expected to participate actively in National Assembly Public Hearings towards the review of these Labour laws.

92. **Address the concentration of women in the agriculture and the service industry**: Out of the 54.6 million Nigerians engaged in the informal sector 27.4 are women, and the study also revealed that more women are working without pay and as casual workers, especially in the agribusiness (NBS, 2010). The reviewed

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National Policy on Employment (finalized in 2016 and currently awaiting approval) made provisions for training women in agro-businesses and facilitating linkage to credit institutions to access credits.

93. **Enhance Women's opportunities to enter the formal sector**: Labour intensive Public Works Programme is a strategy adopted to achieve employment and socioeconomic well-being of women in Nigeria, as contained in the National Employment Policy (2017), and the National Social Protection Policy (2016).

94. The Federal Ministry of Labour is in the process of securing approvals for the reviewed Labour Law, which gives prominence to enforcement of existing maternity protection policies. The Ministry shall enforce the provisions of this law through dedicated and regular labour inspections. Employment statistics and other labour market information's would be collected, disseminated and disaggregated by gender, age and any other identified target groups; to reflect the full extent of the work of women and all their contributions to the national economy.

95. The Federal Ministry of Labour has extracted obsolete laws that need update and has presented them to the National Assembly, which creates an opportunity to make them more gender sensitive and remove grey areas. The new Labour Law seeks to eliminate open or disguised discrimination against women workers in recruitment, remuneration, promotion and training. All stakeholders on labour issues would be expected to participate actively in National Assembly Public Hearings towards the review of these Labour laws.

96. **Address discrimination in the private sector**: Although there are no laws barring women from particular fields of employment, they often experience discrimination, especially in the informal sector. The Federal Ministry of Labour has been engaging the private sector, especially the banking sector, on adherence to labour laws and international standards, including women's maternity rights, marital rights and exposure to sexual harassment in the line of duty.

97. The Government through the Ministry of Labour and Productivity is in the process of extending labour inspection services to the informal sector with a view to protect workers in the informal sector including enforcing labour legislation and extending labour administration services in/to the informal sector to ensure access to social services.

Health

16. Issues

Responses

98. The national response on HIV/AIDS is guided by a National Strategic Framework, the implementation of which is on course and well-funded.

99. Government commitment to combating malaria has increased over the years and efforts are yielding progressive results. As at 2015, Nigeria has achieved three MDG targets one of which is reversing the trend on HIV/AIDS and malaria. The Prevalence of HIV among pregnant women aged 15-24 years has steadily declined from 5.4 per cent in 2006 to 4.1 per cent in 2010.

100. The national response on HIV/AIDS has a comprehensive advocacy and RH Strategy. It also has a five year strategic plan and programme implementation framework on Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV. These and other related programme documents have continue to shape programmes and actions on efforts at enhancing woman's ability to prevent infection. The FMWASD in collaboration with CSOs are carrying out awareness programmes to reduce the spread of STDs

and HIV/AIDS. By the end of 2014, the number of health facilities that offer free antiretroviral drugs stood at 1,057 compared to only 143 in 2011. The result of the sustainable awareness campaign is that the number of adults and children with advanced HIV infection who recently received antiretroviral therapy also increased from 225,125 in 2011 to 774,382 in 2014.

101. Reducing maternal mortality was among the MDG targets that have recorded appreciable progress between 2008 and 2015: it declined from 545 per 100,000 live births in 2008 to 350 in 2012 and 243 per 100,000 live births in 2014. Significant progress was also recorded in the case of antenatal coverage of at least one visit recorded an end point status of 68.9 per cent in 2014, and for at least four visits, the result was 60.6 per cent in 2014. Further, due to effective implementation of the Midwives Service Scheme in rural areas, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel improved appreciably from a baseline figure of 45 per cent in 1990 to the end point status of 58.6 per cent in 2014. Without essential commodities such as contraceptives, HIV testing kits and emergency obstetric care equipment, people cannot fully exercise the rights and access reproductive health care services. In many places, male and female condoms have been provided to prevent the spread of HIV. Government in this area have provided the right quantities of the right products in the right condition in the right place at the right time for the right price. This complex logistical process involves many actors from both the public and private sectors. UNFPA takes a lead role in reproductive health commodity security, by forecasting needs, mobilising support, building logistical capacity at the country level and coordinating with government and other partners. Nigeria's unmet need for family planning increased from 17 per cent in 2004 to 25.1 per cent in 2012, but later declined to 22.2 per cent in 2014 by the MDG 2015 Report. The contraceptive prevalence rate of 18.5 per cent in 2014 was a marginal improvement over the 2012 rate of 17.39 per cent.

102. Series of measures have been taken including the development of Reproductive Health Commodity Security Strategy (2011) and a National Condom Strategy (2007-2012).

103. Awareness creation on women's reproductive health is continuously been held by government agencies and CSOs and comprehensive sexuality education is also being targeted at young boys and girls through Family Life and HIV Education, also known as FLHE. This is the Ministry of Education approved curriculum for teaching about family life, sexuality and HIV and AIDS. It is offered at the junior and senior secondary school and tertiary levels.

104. The Nigerian Law Reform Commission is working on the review of Sexual and allied offences including abortion law and NGOs like WACOL have already made proposal to that effect. It is noteworthy that under Islamic law, such grounds are permissible Exceptions under the doctrine of necessity and need if proven by evidence.

105. The incident and the plight of the victims of the Zamfara lead poisoning are already being taken care of by the Federal Ministries of Environment and Women Affairs in collaboration with the Zamfara state government as well as the Senate Committee on Environment and Climate change since 2012.

106. The Federal Government has revised the 1999 National Policy on Environment in 2016, adopted in February 2017 to provide for such protection and designated a focal point agency NESREA to work in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide medical, psychosocial and rehabilitative services to such victims of lead contamination.

17. Issues

Responses

107. Such measures include the adoption of the National Health Act, 2014 and the NACA Act, 2007. Launch of Integrated Maternal and Child Health Strategy (IMNCHS), SURE-P Maternal and Child Health Programme is designed to increase availability of skilled care to women during pregnancy and childbirth. National Gender Policy framework as well as the National Strategic Health Development Plan 2011-2015 provides direction for the integration of gender into health plans and programmes towards improved health care for women. Government initiatives in this area include:

(a) Saving One million lives Initiatives launched in 2012 and aimed at strengthening data collection and management;

(b) Enhancement of Primary Health-Care Facilities across the country;

(c) Midwives Service Scheme;

(d) Procurement of Ambulances for hard to reach areas at 3 per states;

(e) SURE-P MCH; Provision of Anti-shock Garment, Manual Vacuum Aspirator etc. Partnership with the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) across the Northern region for provision of Emergency Transport Service (ETS) to pregnant women requiring emergency services; Conditional Cash Transfer to pregnant women who attend focused ANC, delivery in health facility under the care of skilled birth attendant and attendance of postnatal care within 2 days after delivery for immunization.

108. The Federal Government is investigating such allegations and will take appropriate action against perpetrators of such acts against women and children because this contradicts both the National Health Act and Policy initiatives.

109. Without essential commodities such as contraceptives, HIV testing kits and emergency obstetric care equipment, people cannot fully exercise the rights and access reproductive health care services. In many places, male and female condoms have been provided to prevent the spread of HIV. Nigeria's unmet need for family planning increased from 17 per cent in 2004 to 25.1 per cent in 2012, but later declined to 22.2 per cent in 2014 by the MDG 2015 Report. The contraceptive prevalence rate of 18.5 per cent in 2014 was a marginal improvement over the 2012 rate of 17.39 per cent.

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111. Awareness creation on women's reproductive health is continuously been held by government agencies and CSOs and comprehensive sexuality education is also being targeted at young boys and girls through Family Life and HIV Education, also known as FLHE. This is the Ministry of Education approved curriculum for teaching about family life, sexuality and HIV and AIDS. It is offered at the junior and senior secondary school and tertiary levels.

Rural women

18. Issues

Responses

Ongoing efforts to expand access to farming input support

112. The opportunities for agriculture business funding support can be divided into 2 broad categories. On the one hand there are interventions, which target the creation of an environment that enables more women (and men) to access funding support. On the other hand, there are some interventions, which focus on providing credit directly to male and female farmers.

Interventions that provide direct credit and other support

GES

113. The ATA Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GES) has done quite well in terms of improving access to agro inputs for smallholder farmers. As many 1.2 million farmers received subsidized fertilizers over a period of 140 days using the e-wallet system (FMARD SCORECARD 2013 at p. 13).

MSMEDF

114. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Fund (MSMEDF), was established in 2013 by the CBN as a vehicle for realizing the objectives set out in the 2012 Financial Inclusion Policy. The MSMEDF is projected to take off with a seed fund of 220 billion Naira and targets the provision of "*wholesale funding requirements of Micro Finance Banks* (MFBs) *and Micro Finance Institutions* (MFIs)". 60 per cent of this Fund is earmarked for "*providing financial services to women*", which is commendable.

115. **The Commercial Agriculture Credit Scheme, which** establishes a N200 Billion bond through the Debt Management Office (DMO) for purposes of providing concessionary funding for agro-business.

Bank of Industry

116. The Bank of Industry was established by the Federal Executive Council in January 2002 with the only purpose of promoting and encouraging small- and medium-scale industries in Nigeria.

Micro finance banks

117. Micro Finance Banks were established to attend to low-income entrepreneurs and the economically active poor who cannot meet the lending conditions of the commercial institutions. They are however structured to give out loans mainly to registered limited liability companies at the rate of 1 per cent of shareholders' fund.

Interventions that aim to create an enabling environment for improved access:

118. **The Nigeria Incentive Based Risk Management System for Agricultural Lending** (NISRAL) is a Public/Private Partnership between the Federal Government and Banks to provide loans to the agricultural sector. An initiative of the CBN, the scheme targets the provision of risk sharing instruments in order to provide relief to financial institutions by lowering the risks associated with lending and technical assistance. These financial institutions are expected to disburse at least N450 billion as low-interest loans (less than 9 per cent interest rates) to farmers' cooperatives.

119. **The Rural Finance Institution Building Programme (RUFIN)** is a USD 27.2 million loan agreement between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Federal Government to develop and strengthen micro finance banks and other member based MFIs. RUFIN is a 7-Year Programme (2010-2017) designed to provide access to micro credit to the rural poor with specific emphasis on women, youth and the physical challenged in 36 Local Government Areas from 12 project selected states. RUFIN focuses on: capacity-building and Technical Support to Bank and Non-bank Microfinance.

120. **The Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund** The ACGSF started operations in April 1978. While the Federal Government holds 60 per cent of the scheme's shares, the Central Bank of Nigeria, owns 40 per cent. The Fund is under the joint management of its Board and the Central Bank of Nigeria. The CBN however handles the Fund's day-to-day operations. The capital base of the Scheme was increased to N3 billion in March 2001 and this has further increased to N5 billion under the CBN's management (CBN 2012). The Fund guarantees credit facilities extended to farmers by banks up to 75 per cent of the amount in default net of any security realized.

Access to credit

121. In 2007, some 20,098 men accessed agricultural loans in Nigeria compared to 8,550 women (DFID 2012). This corroborates the findings of a recent World Bank report on the "Investment Climate in Nigeria", which shows that capital rather than productivity narrows the range of activities in which women engage. The report also shows that a majority of women (76 per cent) rely mostly on internal funds and retained earnings, and that only about 1 per cent of them obtain capital from the formal financial sector.

Access to seedlings and other input

122. This gender disparity in access is also evident at the level of seedlings and other input support. At the One Stop in Dafara, which was set up by the FMARD with ongoing support from FEPAR, women account for 20 out of over 142 feeds that have been redeemed by farmers. In this case discussions with the FEPAR focal person for the Dafara centre suggests that the low numbers of female access are partly attributable to lack of awareness about the available opportunities and also because the access road to the centre is not well maintained and therefore expensive and more inconvenient for the women to use. A more centralized location for the centre (such as the community market square) would probably lead to improved access for more women farmers.

123. Gender is mainstreamed into the national development strategy — Vision 20.20.20. This is evident in the gender responsive programmes/initiatives being supported by the Central Bank and the Federal Ministry of Finance. The 2017-2030 Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) adopted by the Federal Government in February 2017, seeks to enhance support to MSMEs by among others, providing for Women micro-loans through the Government Enterprises Employment Programme (GEEP) and Women Empowerment Fund (WEF) under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and SD. The OSSAP-MDGs specifically targets Female headed households with micro credit facilities across the country. In April 2014, over 135 Agro based Cooperative societies operated by women and located in 148 LGAs of the country accessed the facility. The 2017-2020 ERGP provides for a Social inclusion Programme. The key strategy is to implement and increase social safety net programmes targeted at the vulnerable groups. One of the key activities is to sustain the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme to reach one million of the poorest and most vulnerable households, especially through

mothers as captured in the Social Register. These services are on government priority list and different initiatives are being embarked upon at different levels to ensure that women especially in the rural areas have access to social services. Such initiatives are presented in the full report (CAPS 12, 11 and 10).

Access to land

124. Access to land remains a critical factor as far as women's participation in the sector is concerned. The NBS estimates that women own as little as 7 per cent of the total land-mass in Nigeria. While the Land Use Act (LUA) vests ultimate ownership of land in the Government, under a land tenure system, individuals can be awarded rights of lands through 'easements', 'statutory rights of occupancy' or customary rights of occupancy by national, state or local government authorities depending on the location of the land in question. (LUA: Sections 1 and 5).

19. Issues

Responses

125. The Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) 2011-2015 provides concrete measures in the forms of the following pillars:

(a) Pillar one: Promoting agribusiness:

(i) Facilitate emergence of more direct credit facilities for rural farmers;

(ii) Negotiate for existing interventions to integrate provisions for women's quota in access to credit support. A 35 per cent minimum is recommended in line with the National Gender Policy;

(iii) Track and monitor gender specific results at all levels of the ATA;

(iv) Work with stakeholders (e.g. CBOs) and partners to advocate for women's use of and access to land especially at Local Government levels. It is important to ensure that women whose farmlands are taken over by Local Government Authorities are provided alternative farmland by the authorities in lien with section 6 of the Land Use Act.

(b) Pillar two: Job creation/wealth creation and food security:

(i) Provide financial literacy training to women cooperatives across six geopolitical zones;

(ii) Work with women focused NGOs, CBOs and Cooperative Groups to provide financial literacy training to larger numbers of women across the six geopolitical zones for purposes of increasing number of women who own bank accounts;

(iii) Advocacy at level of Local Government Authorities to ensure that women whose farmlands are taken over by Local Government Authorities are provided alternative farmland in lien with section 6 of the Land Use Act;

(iv) Increase pool of female extension workers;

(v) Integrate gender awareness training for male and female extension workers during periodic training;

(vi) Situate more One Stop Centres in central locations within central locations within communities for ease of access by both male and female farmers but especially by the latter demographic;

(vii) Work with partners (NGO's, CBO's and MFI's) to roll out the national 'open a bank account' drive for female smallholder farmers in Nigeria;

(viii) Design and implement interest free loan schemes for women and men who cannot access regular loans due to religious restrictions;

(ix) Integrate gender related feedback in feasibility studies and pre-impact assessment for development of agricultural processing zones.

(c) Pillar 3: Value chain development:

(i) Train and support women to be able to engage within other nodes apart from processing (e.g. storage);

(ii) Provide skills training for women that will enable them carry out different activities within the processing node, which is where they are most visible across the value chains;

(iii) Improve women's access to national and regional markets. Interface with other sectors and partners is required here for improving infrastructure such as rural roads;

(iv) Negotiate with community leaders and traditional structures for increased women's participation at different nodes within the 'staple crops' category. *Gender norms and roles are not set in stone. They are contested, changing and changeable* (Imam 2008).

126. The report of the Nigerian Law Reform Commission on the review of the discriminatory Laws, Policies and Practices affecting Women and Children is awaiting action on it by the Minister of Justice. Meanwhile the NCWD has just concluded update study on such discriminatory issues in June 2017.

Marriage and family relations

20. Issues

Responses

127. Yes they do have recourse to customary and Sharia courts and can appeal up to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Nigeria. May also resort to Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms/Multi-Door court Houses on such matters.

128. Polygamous marriages, limited or unlimited are part of the personal laws of citizens recognized by the Constitution and applicable in constitutionally established superior courts of record earlier mentioned in this report.

129. No known measures being taken to eradicate them.

130. As at the time of preparing this report, the draft instrument is being reviewed to accommodate inputs from other stakeholders at the states level.

131. Yes, because the right of women to own and acquire property is a constitutional fundamental right guaranteed under section 43. And by section 287 constitution, decisions of superior courts of record established by the constitution are enforceable in any part of the federation by all authorities, not with-standing the tripartite legal system in operation.

Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1

21. Issues

Responses

132. The Federal Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is reviewing the submission on acceptance of the amendments.